

## HOUSE BILL NO. 455.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
STATE OF TEXAS.

Austin, April 7, 1903.

*To the Secretary of State:*

I return herewith and disapprove House bill No. 455, styled "An Act to assist the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Cum Concilio Club and other social and educational clubs of the State of Texas and of Nacogdoches county, Texas, to rebuild the Old Stone Fort of Nacogdoches, Texas, the stones of the same having been carefully preserved by said club and the citizens of Nacogdoches, Texas, and to provide for the care and preservation of the said Old Stone Fort after it is rebuilt."

I can not approve this bill for the following reasons:

It appropriates \$2,000 "for the purpose of assisting the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Cum Concilio Club of Nacogdoches and other clubs organized for the purpose of promoting history, education and science in this State and in Nacogdoches county," and further states in express terms that "the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of assisting said educational and benevolent associations," etc.

It is nowhere provided that the State shall own the "Old Stone Fort," or in any way control it.

Section 51, Article 3, of the Constitution says: "The Legislature shall have no power to make any grant or authorize the making of any grant of public money to any individual, association of individuals, municipal or other corporations whatsoever," etc.

It is worthy of note that it became necessary to amend this section of the Constitution before aid could be granted to Confederate soldiers. However patriotic may be the purpose of this bill, and however strongly its object may appeal to our sentiments and sympathies, I feel constrained to withhold Executive approval of the measure, because I believe it is at variance with and prohibited by the Constitution.

S. W. T. LANHAM,  
Governor.